

Student Senate questions legality of request

Multicultural Center's request for fund transfer and two new positions approved but scrutinized

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NEWS REPORTER

The ASUO Student Senate met Wednesday night to elect a treasurer, make nominations and hear requests from several campus organizations.

The Senate nominated and approved senators James George, Stephanie Erickson, Toby Hill-Meyer, Sarah Wells and Kevin Day for the Rules Committee; Rona Yang, Stephanie Stoll, Austin Shaw-Phillips, Emily Sousa and Sol Hart for the Finance Committee; and Colin Andries,

Lisa Lam, Jack Crocifisso, Khahn Le and Rodrigo Moreno-Villamar for the Personnel Committee. Moreno-Villamar, Hart, Wells, Souse and Stoll will serve on the University Senate.

Finding senators willing to serve on one of the committees proved difficult. Shaw-Phillips originally declined his nomination for a spot on the Finance Committee citing his disdain for math, saying that "for the good of the Senate" he shouldn't be on the committee. Shaw-Phillips accepted after it became clear no senators wanted the position.

After the committees were approved, the Senate approved two new job descriptions from the Multicultural Center and approved a \$1,400 transfer from the incidental fee surplus fund to cover the costs of hiring for positions.

The two positions were designed to serve as an outreach to minority students in area high schools, which programs adviser Steve Morozumi said are often unfairly cast as incapable of succeeding at the University level.

The requests had been postponed from last week's meeting because of concerns over whether the new job descriptions were a violation of federal work-study laws.

"The only concern was that they might be a violation," senator Toby

Hill-Meyer said, adding that no one knew because many hadn't read them.

Morozumi told the Senate he thought the request was "subjected to unfair and disproportionate scrutiny that other organizations don't get."

Delaying the approval of the job descriptions and the surplus transfer would make it difficult to reach current high school seniors whose college applications are due soon.

Moreno-Villamar supported the new positions, saying that to delay the request any further would "(delay) the hopes and dreams of youth."

Hart expressed concern over approving job descriptions that University lawyers had yet to declare legal.

"What was before us before was not

legal," he said, referring to the job description presented at the Oct. 6 Senate meeting and adding that it is crucial for the Senate to obey the law.

Morozumi said the claim that the job description was illegal was "outrageous. You can say these things and say it loud enough and long enough but it doesn't make it true."

The Senate also unanimously approved requests from the Women's Law Forum, the Community Internship Program, the Hawaii Club, the Black Student Union and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Educational and Support Services Program, totaling approximately \$4,000.

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Edwards: students' reactions to visit range from ecstatic to disappointed

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DeFranco said it's crucial for elected officials to recognize mistakes and learn from them.

"That's a key to good leadership," he said.

Senior Ray Gragg said he turned out to see Edwards because he has been a Kerry supporter but did not know much about the vice presidential candidate. Gragg said Edwards speaks to the middle class demographic.

"He really seemed to support America and American ideas in a way I think will better the middle class," he said.

Gragg said Edwards covered domestic issues that are often neglected.

"I think one thing lot of people got from this speech is how important domestic issues are to this party," he said.

Gragg added that Edwards' visit

was vital for raising support for the Kerry campaign.

"At the very least, he just strengthened his supporters," he said.

Wednesday's rally did draw some undecided voters, including sophomore Mike Maloney. He said seeing Edwards first hand was necessary to help him determine the candidate's character.

"Personally, I don't stand for what Edwards did to make his money," Maloney said.

Maloney said he hoped to hear Edwards discuss clear plans for how his ticket will accomplish its goals but Edwards did not deliver.

"It was kind of a disappointment on my part today," he said.

Bush supporters also attended the rally to express their views.

Michelle Marini of the College Republicans National Committee was

one of the president's supporters gathered near the entrance to the rally and said she was not impressed with what she heard of Edwards' speech.

"It's just the same old rhetoric you hear on TV everyday," Marini said.

She and about 25 other Bush supporters came to the rally to support other conservative students by showing them that "they're not a minority on campus," she said.

Michelle Dixon, student outreach director for the Carry Oregon campaign, said the rally was a tremendous success.

"UO students really got to hear that Kerry has a plan for our future," she said. "The real key is going to be what this does to get the vote out on campus."

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DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Vice presidential hopeful John Edwards is greeted by Congressman Peter Defazio on the East Lawn of the EMU Wednesday afternoon.

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